

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 AID-20 L-03 SS-20 DODE-00 IGA-02 AGR-20 DRC-01

/156 W

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R 142038Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9439

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6495

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT - ECUADOR, NOVEMBER 1973

1. SUMMARY: SEIZURE STATISTICS WERE UP FOR OCTOBER, THE LATEST FULL MONTH FOR WHICH FIGURES AVAILABLE, WITH 11 POINT 4 KILOS OF COCAINE SEIZED. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY VISITED QUITO NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 1 AND HELD USEFUL MEETINGS WITH MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY

2. NATIONAL POLICE AND CUSTOMS: SEIZURE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WERE 11 POINT 4 KILOS OF COCAINE, UP FROM 2 POINT 5 KILOS IN SEPTEMBER. THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 19 NARCOTICS RELATED ARRESTS, UP FROM 72 IN SEPTEMBER. A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE INCREASE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE IN EL ORO PROVINCE, ALONG THE PERUVIAN BORDER.

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3. THE NATIONAL POLICE NOW HAVE 47 OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ENGAGED IN FULL TIME NARCOTICS WORK. NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF, GENERAL DURAN, TOLD AMBASSADOR HANDLEY HE HOPED TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THIS FIGURE IN THE COMING YEAR. HE ALSO ASSURED HANDLEY THAT THE POLICE WOULD ASSIGN MORE US NARCOTICS-TRAINED PERSONNEL TO STRAIGHT NARCOTICS WORK AFTER THEIR TRAINING THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE UNTIL NOW.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUSTOMS PROJECT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SLOWED BY THE LATE ARRIVAL OF THE US CUSTOMS ADVISOR AND THE DELAYED DECISION ON THE APPROPRIATE MIX OF US COMMODITIES TO BE SUPPLIED IN SUPPORT OF THAT AGREEMENT. THIS LATTER PROBLEM HAS BEEN ALLEVIATED WITH THE GOE'S DECISION TO BUY PATROL BOATS ON ITS OWN RATHER THAN RELY ON A US GRANT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5. US ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES: DEA HAS NOT YET STAFFED ITS TWO NEWLY-CREATED POSITIONS IN GUAYAQUIL WITH PERMANENT PERSONNEL. ONE TDY SPECIAL AGENT CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN GUAYAQUIL.

6. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY VISIT: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. HANDLEY, S/NM, VISITED QUITO NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 1. HE MET WITH GOE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION, THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY ALSO CONSULTED WITH THE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. WE BELIEVE HIS VISIT WAS USEFUL IN TERMS OF SHARING HIS EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFIC ELSEWHERE AND IN TERMS OF IMPRESSING LOCAL OFFICIALS OF OUR DEGREE OF CONCERN. AMBASSADOR HANDLEY ALSO SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING WHAT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO A COMMITMENT FROM GOE SEC GEN FOR ADMINISTRATION THAT TRAFFICKER JAIME CASTELLO YEPEZ WOULD BE KEPT IN JAIL RATHER THAN RELEASED PREMATURELY AS HAD BEEN RUMORED. CASTELLO WAS INVOLVED IN MAJOR COCAINE SHIPMENT INTERDICTED IN BALTIMORE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

7. MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE: POST'S NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MET DECEMBER 10 TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BOGOTA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE. AMONG ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE REVIEW OF NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN AND POSSIBILITY OF US-FINANCED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON COCAINE USE IN GUAYAQUIL.

8. BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF AMBASSADOR HANDLEY AND EXPERIENCE OF OTHER POSTS REPRESENTED AT BOGOTA MEETING, DEFENSE AND AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES HAVE BEEN ADDED AS

MEMBERS OF THE NARCOTICS COMMITTEE.
BREWSTER

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